

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9 and 17. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): An apparatus for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:
 - an encoder configured to digitally encode a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;
 - a placement selector configured to select a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;
 - an access selector configured to select a level of access for the encoded information;
 - a processor configured to process, responsive to said access selector, the encoded information;
 - a printer configured to print the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as a lattice image pattern ~~an area~~ of glyph marks at the location; ~~and~~
 - a disambiguation unit configured to determine an angular orientation of the lattice image pattern, the disambiguation unit comprising:
 - a compositing mechanism configured to composite a subsample of the glyph marks in said lattice image pattern to a composite lattice image pattern; and
 - a lattice-axis determination mechanism configured to determine a lattice axis for said lattice image pattern from a line fit through centroids of some of a plurality of composite glyphs in the composite lattice image pattern formed by the compositing mechanism; and

a lens apparatus configured to produce a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information is ~~determined by disambiguation~~ responsive to the disambiguation unit.

2.(previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.

3-4(canceled)

5.(Currently amended): A method for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:

digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information; and

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as ~~an area~~ lattice image pattern of glyph marks at the location; and

determining an angular orientation of the lattice image pattern, the determining further comprising:

forming a composite lattice image pattern having a plurality of composite glyph marks; and

determining a lattice axis for the lattice image pattern from a line fit through centroids of some of the plurality of composite glyph marks; and

displaying a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information is ~~determined by disambiguation~~ responsive to the lattice axis.

6.(previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.

7.(canceled)

8.(previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

9.(Currently amended): A method for ensuring that a document has not been altered, comprising:

digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information;

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.

decoding the encoded information as decoded information;

determining an angular orientation of the lattice image pattern, the determining further comprising:

forming a composite lattice image pattern having a plurality of composite glyph marks; and

determining a lattice axis for the lattice image pattern from a line fit through centroids of some of the plurality of composite glyph marks; and

displaying the decoded information as a composite image of the document and the decoded information wherein the orientation of the decoded information is ~~determined by disambiguation~~ responsive to the lattice axis;

comparing the decoded information with the user-inputted portion; and

identifying the document as altered, if the decoded information is not identical to the user-inputted portion.

10.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

11.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoded information is a graphical recreation of the user-inputted portion.

12.(previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoding step further comprises placing the document under a viewport of a lens apparatus, wherein the lens apparatus converts the encoded information to decoded information.

13.(previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein displaying the decoded information further comprises superimposing the decoded information on the document.

14.(previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein displaying the decoded information further comprises displaying the decoded information outside of the document.

15-16(canceled)

17.(Currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for creating a tamper-proof document, the method comprising;

digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information;

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as ~~an area~~ a lattice image pattern of glyph marks at the location;~~and~~

determining an angular orientation of the lattice image pattern, the determining further comprising:

forming a composite lattice image pattern having a plurality of composite glyph marks; and

determining a lattice axis for the lattice image pattern from a line fit through centroids of some of the plurality of composite glyph marks; and

displaying a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information ~~is determined by disambiguation~~ responsive to the lattice axis.

18.(original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

19-29(canceled)

30.(previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.